

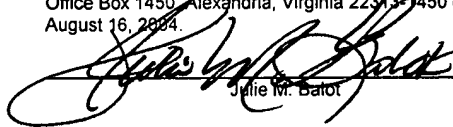


TFW/

Attorney Docket No. GEMF 2050-4

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Post Office Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on August 16, 2004.


Julie M. Bator

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: William K. Bischel et al. Application No.: 10/702,564 Confirmation No.: 8718 Filed: November 6, 2003 Title: Device and Method for Variable Attenuation of an Optical Channel	Attorney Docket No.: GEMF 2050-4 Examiner: Alessandro V. Amari Group: 2872 Customer No. 22470
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RESPONSE A

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This RESPONSE A is in reply to the Office action mailed May 14, 2004. The fee for conversion of claims from dependent form to independent form (\$43.00) is included herewith.

An Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith, together with the appropriate fee (\$180.00).

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 9 of this paper.